

phenomenon and to allay the fears of people. Such incidents have been occurring at Abishegappatti, Nanguneri, Thenkasi and Sengottai areas in my district, Tirunelveli, in which ISRO and INS Kottabomman are located. Even the Indo-Russian Koodangulam Atomic Power Project is being set up in this region because of the reportedly solid rock beneath the surface. It is now said by some experts that the rocks below are moving northward. It is the duty of the Centre to make a thorough study of this phenomenon so that the life of people is not exposed to danger. Any such incident around the atomic project could be disastrous.

So, I appeal to the Government to send a team of experts and determine the causes of such eruption and relieve people of their anxiety before the beginning of the construction of atomic power project at Koodankulam.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE (Tamil Nadu): I associate myself with what he has said.

#### **Israeli airstrikes on Gaza and West Bank**

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Goa): India established diplomatic relations with the State of Israel in 1993 on the grounds that we would then be able to contribute in a more effective manner to the West Asia peace process. Indeed, I was the first person to establish official contact on behalf of the Government of India with Israel when, as Minister of State in the Foreign Office, I met that year the then Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. Shimon Peres, in New York.

Over the last two days, however, the Israeli airstrikes on the West Bank and Gaza have all but destroyed the peace process. The airstrikes will destroy the efforts of the international community after the 'new vision' statement of US Secretary of State, Colin Powell, for the creation of the State of Palestine.

In view of India's firm and longstanding commitment to help in the peace process, I urge the Government of India to call upon the Government of Israel to immediately halt the aggressive strikes, to call upon both parties to resume the peace negotiations on the basis of the UN Security Council Resolutions as well as the signed agreements and to finalise a time-frame for return of the Palestinian refugees, dismantling of the Israeli settlements in

Gaza and the West Bank and security for all countries and peoples of the region, and to ensure the protection of the people, an international protection observer force in the Palestine area may be constituted. And may I request the hon. Minister to kindly respond?

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with what he has said.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I respond only on the insistence of the hon. Member, that the Government's position has been made clear last week in a statement in the other House. Quite categorically, we have condemned acts of terrorism and violence and we have clearly said that air-strikes, particularly at President Arafat's place are unacceptable and condemnable. India stands unequivocally for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. We were amongst the first to recognise the internationally recognised boundaries.

We stand for the U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, as also 338, 'Land for Peace', Mitchell Report's earliest implementation, and we have said that this cycle of violence followed by higher violence must end and the West Asian peace process given a chance for restoring peace. I have personally been in touch with President Arafat as also with the Foreign Minister of Israel, Shimon Perez, from last week itself. They both appreciated India's position and have sought India's intervention so that the resumption of the peace process could be facilitated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Janeshwar Mishra - not present. Shri P.N. Siva.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Sir, with your permission, would the Minister clarify the position ...*(interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri P.N. Siva.

#### **Brutal attack on SC/ST students in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI P.N. SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, as an unprecedented act, without seeking the permission of the Principal of Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, the Tamil Nadu police, accompanied by anti-social elements, barged into the hostel premises of the college at 12 o'clock on 7.12.2001, broke open the doors of the rooms and unleashed violence upon the innocent students who were busy preparing for their ensuing examinations and others who were fast asleep. ...*(interruptions)*...